



Vol. 2, No 8

News and Information about United States Army Garrison Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

Fall 2015



***Fort A.P. Hill opens gates to public for
240th Army Birthday Run*** ***Page 2***



240th ARMY BIRTHDAY



Fort A.P. Hill Army Birthday Run is a success

America's Army was founded June 14, 1775. Under the Constitution enacted in 1789, it became a military department of the federal government, a hierarchical bureaucratic institution.

Many decades later, by the early 1900s, generations of foresighted Army leaders slowly transformed the Army into the modern professional entity we know today.

The Army's 240th Birthday marked the first time the U.S. Army Garrison Fort A.P. Hill opened its gates to the public for an Army Birthday event. The event, a 10K run, 5K run and walk was hosted by Family and Moral, Welfare and Recreation.

Nearly 170 runners and walkers participated in the first annual Fort A.P. Hill Army Birthday run and walk June 13 at Beaverdam picnic area, Fort A.P. Hill.

The top three 10K men's finishers were Spc. Anthony Nganga, with a time of 44 minutes 49 seconds; Paul Roberson at 45 minutes, 52 seconds and Command Sgt. Maj. Ron McGraw of the 402nd Quartermasters at 47 minutes, 00 seconds.

The top three 10K female finishers were Spc. Julie E. Hohman of the 475th Quartermaster Group, with a time of 46 minutes 54 seconds; Spc. Shannon Milanley also of the 475th at 47 minutes, 19 seconds and Kristen Staples of Colonial Beach, Va., at 53 minutes, 00 seconds.

The top-three 5K men's finishers were Spc. Blake Askin of the 810th Quartermaster Company with a time of 20 minutes 47 seconds; Spc. Dakota Dillon of the FSC 463rd at 21 minutes, 46 seconds and Spc. Jonathan Atugbire of the 810th Quartermaster Company, at 22 minutes, 19 seconds.

The top three 5K female finishers were Rebecca Broaddus with a time of 28 minutes 35 seconds; Pfc. Rebecca M. Maguire of the 463rd Engineering Battalion at 29 minutes, 00 seconds and Cpl. Amanda R. Kavanaugh of the 810th Quartermasters at 29 minutes, 07 seconds.

Thanks to all F&MWR employees, garrison employees and volunteers who came out to work and support this first time event.



Garrison Commander
Lt. Col. David A. Meyer

Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Wei-quan A. Ho

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CSM Corner

by *Command Sgt. Maj. Weiquan A. Ho*

Team A.P. Hill,

I hope you had a great July 4th weekend and were able to celebrate our nation's birth with your families and friends. Independence Day is an important event, especially for our service members, civilians and the family members who each have an essential role in our missions and service to our Nation. As you celebrated our Independence Day, I hope you took a moment to remember those who made the sacrifice in the pursuit of our continued independence and freedom unequalled in the world. Leading up to Independence Day, Fort AP Hill celebrated the Army's 240th Birthday with a 10K run, a 5K run/walk, a cake cutting ceremony and exhibits highlighting the history of the post. The post was open to the public for the event and saw over 100 participants from the local community and nearly 200 Soldiers who were training on the installation.

We hope that the success of this event leads us to many more successful Army Birthday celebration events in the future. Thanks to our outstanding MWR staff for their commitment and hard work in making this event a hit.

The operational tempo has picked up in the last two months. Fort A.P. Hill facilitated training for thousands of warriors from different organizations in DoD. The highlights of the some of the major events include an annual US Army Reserve Quartermaster Liquid Logistic Exercise (QLLEX). This exercise provided our reserve component Soldiers opportunities to sharpen their skills and conduct real world missions. Fort A.P. Hill also facilitated training for two Marine battalions for their annual training events.

As the presence of Marine Corps units increased,

representatives from HQ USMC visited the garrison in order to elicit best practices in our range operations. This is significant and it is attributed to the demonstrated professionalism, tactical and technical competency of the Fort A.P. Hill staff. Lastly, we hosted the two JROTC events consisting of more than 500 cadets from high schools in eight different states.

The JROTC challenged the cadets, broadened their horizon and instilled them with confidence.

Lt. Col. Meyer and I have been continuously received praises from training units for your demonstrated professionalism and exceptional support to our warriors.

We culminated the month of June with hosting the 11-month-overdue Initial Command Inspection. Fort A.P. Hill was lauded by the IMCOM inspection team with an overall 95 percent rating, and the inspectors came away impressed by the amount of support you provide as a regional training center. They are equally impressed by our professional and dedicated staff who execute our functional areas with minimal staff to meet all statutory and regulatory requirements. Individuals from Range and Training, Resources Management, DFMWR, SHARP and Garrison Security Office were recognized as top performers. This is a testament of your hard work and dedication. Lt. Col. Meyer and I are proud and grateful to be part of the A.P. Hill Team. Thank you for all you do to support our warriors and keep up the good work.



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*This edition's cover photo
provided by USAG Fort A.P. Hill
Public Affairs Office*

Fort A.P. Hill firefighters recognized for accident heroics



By David San Miguel

Recognized for their quick thinking and heroic efforts in response to a traffic accident, two installation firefighters received the U.S. Army Guardian Safety Award during a special ceremony May 28 at the garrison post headquarters.

Fire medics Peter M. Orioles and Dana A. Nichols were presented the awards by Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Farnsworth, director of Army Safety and commanding general, U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center.

The Guardian Safety Award is presented to personnel who, through extraordinary actions or skills, react to an emergency event or an imminently dangerous situation, thereby eliminating or minimizing loss, such as injury to personnel or damage to military property.

On Oct. 9, 2014, Nichols was taking Orioles through ambulance driver familiarization training local medical treatment facilities. It was only Orioles' third day on

the job and his teammate wanted to ensure proper indoctrination into the fire department.

At around 4 p.m., the two fire medics were en route to the Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center in Spotsylvania County when they came upon a traffic accident at an intersection.

"We pulled up behind a tractor trailer and thought we were waiting for a school bus," Nichols said. "When we pulled up a little further, we saw a motorcycle lying on its side with two people kneeling next to the downed rider. That's when it clicked for us. The accident had just occurred."

Instinctively, the two fire medics "hit the lights and went to work."

According to the award narrative, Orioles and Nichols secured the intersection, stabilized the injured rider and notified the county EMS/fire dispatcher of the status and ongoing patient treatment. \

They remained on the scene until the ambulance crew arrived, took over patient care and transported him to the local trauma

center.

"Despite being out of service on an unrelated mission, Firefighters Orioles and Nichols acted without hesitation when they came upon an injured motorcyclist," said Lt. Col. David A. Meyer, garrison commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort A.P. Hill. "While remarkable, their actions are a great example of the dedication and selflessness demonstrated by the entire Fort A.P. Hill Fire Department every day."

Deputy Fire Chief Thomas E. Acacia echoed those sentiments.

"Firefighters Orioles and Nichols exemplify dedication to their profession," he said.

"These two outstanding individuals uphold the Army values of duty, honor and country and I am extremely proud to work with them and the rest of this department," Acacia continued.

Farnsworth added that the success of the safety program, as with any Army program, hinges on individuals like Orioles and Nichols

See FIRE pg. 5

Fort A.P. Hill gets new deputy commander

Peter F. Sun was assigned as Deputy to the Fort A.P. Hill Garrison Commander on July 12, 2015. His previous assignments regional installation support team chief, U.S. Army Installation Management Command Atlantic and Southeast Regions, liaison officer to the Training and Doctrine Command; chief, Task Force Year of Manpower, Headquarters IMCOM; chief of staff, Installation Management Command Europe Region; and the Installation Management Agency liaison officer to the Training and Doctrine Command. Before joining federal civil service, he had worked as a business development manager and program manager for Alion Science and Technology Corporation and Science Applications International Corporation.

Mr. Sun retired as a colonel of armor from the United States Army. He is a graduate of the Armor Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College.

His military assignments include service with the Berlin Brigade, 194th Armor Brigade, and the 1st, 4th, and 8th Infantry Divisions. He commanded Company C, United States Army Armor Center; Company A, 4th Battalion, 73d Armor; 4th Battalion, 34th Armor; and was the garrison commander, Fort Polk, Louisiana. During Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm, he was the Senior Advisor to the Saudi Arabian National Guard King Abdul Aziz Brigade in Al Khafji, KSA. Staff assignments include chief of armor cavalry tactics, chief of tank gunnery, Combined Arms and Services School staff leader, assistant professor of military science, G3 training officer, G3 air officer, and operations research systems analysis staff officer. His final military assignment was as the assistant deputy chief of staff for base operations support in the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

Military decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Valorous Unit Award, the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Army Achievement Medal. He was also awarded the United States Army Armor Association's Order of Saint George, Silver Medallion. Civilian decorations include two awards of the Superior Civilian Service Award and two awards of the Commander's Award for Civilian Service.

He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Toledo, and a Master of Business Administration degree from Kent State University.

Pete is a member of the Association of the U.S. Army, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity, Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, and Beta Gamma Sigma, Business Honorary Fraternity.

He is married to the former Dianne Zervos and they have one son, Michael.



FIRE from pg. 4 —————

who step out of their comfort zone, take charge of the situation and exercise those skillsets they've been specifically trained to do.

"That accident victim is alive today because of their decision to act," he said. "What may have ended in tragedy had been prevented and the motorcycle rider gets yet another chance to ride again."

"It is an honor to receive the U.S. Army Guardian Safety Award," Orioles said.

"It not only represents the Army's safety program in the workplace, but also the dedication of the men and women of Fort A.P. Hill and its directorates of ongoing safety success," Orioles added.

(Michael Meisberger, Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs Office, contributed to this article)

Researchers study prothonotary warbler at Fort A.P. Hill

By Olivia Mills, DPW-
Environmental

Each October, prothonotary warblers (*Protonotaria citrea*), petite, 14-gram songbirds, migrate from their breeding grounds in the eastern U.S. to the humid, tropical mangrove forests of Central and South America (Panama, Costa Rica, Colombian and Venezuela) to spend the winter.

Out of the 50 warbler species in the U.S., the prothonotary is one of only two cavity-nesting warblers. This brilliant yellow, neotropical migrant prefers to nest in abandoned woodpecker holes or tree trunk cavities over bodies of water such as wooded swamps, wetlands or other bottomland forests.

Because of their habitat specificity, rapidly disappearing mangroves and deforestation are their primary threat to survival. Since 1966 there has been a 1 percent reduction in population per year, which equates to a 40 percent decline in their overall population. The availability of nest boxes, however, has significantly helped stabilize local warbler population.

In 1987, researchers from Virginia Commonwealth University placed over 600 nesting boxes around the James River, a prime prothonotary warbler habitat location. Since then, there have been over 26,000 warblers produced from this project, as well as great research advances in reproductive activity and breeding behavior.

Due in part to the efforts of the VCU researchers and conservationists around the state, Virginia is one of the few states with consistently rising prothonotary warbler num-



A prothonotary warbler observes the area outside its nest. The warbler prefers to put their nests abandoned woodpecker holes or tree trunk cavities. *Photo courtesy of VCU PROW team.*

bers. Furthermore, to find where specific warbler populations stay the winter, research groups are tracking the warbler across their entire migration route. The warblers are fitted with tiny geolocators that store migration data.

However, to retrieve and download the information, the prothonotary has to be re-captured. Locally, a VCU team is using stable isotope analysis to track migration, as well as comparing prothonotary warbler population density at the James River, an artificially influenced habitat, to Fort A.P. Hill's natural habitat. Additionally, the team is performing point surveys on base.

Transects with set points are visited three times over the course of the season and every cavity nesting species heard and seen is documented.

Since the team arrived at Fort A.P. Hill in March, surveying possible prothonotary habitat locations, they have located a total of 13 nests, and banded about 16 nest-

lings and 30 adult warblers. They use two methods to safely band and retrieve data from the birds.

With the first method, the team places a small butterfly net over the hole or cavity of a known prothonotary nest to capture the individual when flying out. Five adult warblers have been caught this way so far.

Twenty-five warblers were caught using recorded warbler and screech owl calls to lure the birds to a mist net.

Once the bird is caught, the team works with great care to untangle it from the fine netting and get the information they need before setting the bird free. Gently securing the almost weightless bird in hand, researchers secure an identifying colored band around each leg, measures of wing cord, tail and tarsus length, and record gender and age.

It is common for prothonotary

See Bird pg. 10

Troop construction projects

411th Engineers pave the way to savings

Story and photo by Fort A.P. Hill PAO

Fort A.P. Hill saved approximately \$1.3 million on much-needed improvements as a New York-based reserve brigade used its annual training to perform real-world missions on the installation's infrastructure.

Over a 60-day period, five battalions and 10 companies and detachments from the 411th Engineer Brigade completed three major construction projects around the garrison.

In the process, through close coordination with the brigade, the garrison public works directorate was able to avoid \$1.3 million in costs. The installation's own 412th Engineering Company also worked under the 411th during the construction.

The largest project, a new high-capacity 22-pad ammunition handing area saved more than \$1 million and will allow for an increase in training tempo.

The ammunition handling area project included surveying and grading 20 acres, demolition of existing structure and installation of 22 above-grade pads. To network the pads, four access roads, two perimeter roads and a two vehicle staging areas were created.

Underground work included electrical, telephone and storm water drainage.

Project coordination was not easy. "Normally, with a standard construction project, the project goes to a contractor turn-key. He is responsible for acquiring all materials as well as the construction work," said Ben McBride, Fort A.P. Hill director of Public Works.

Public Works used in-house assets such as engineering, environmental and procurement to help facilitate the project. "For this troop construction project, the DPW Engineering Division did the work to order all materials and monitor the construction of the troops," McBride said. "We are getting a great product from the troops, but this project is a bit more hands-on than what we are used to. However, the cost savings of approximately \$1 million makes it worth it."

The 411th also paved most of the headquarters area parking lots -- four large parking areas.

The resurfacing project could have cost \$500,000, according to garrison estimates. Instead, garrison staff worked with the 411th to set up its training rotation at a time both the horizontal and vertical engineers could perform the work as training. All the garrison had to pay for was asphalt and fuel, bringing the project cost down to \$190,000.

The engineers also poured permanent concrete pads for refrigeration units behind the Wilcox PX and dining complex. Replacing temporary wooden platforms, the pads will allow the refrigerators to sit above grade on a dry surface.

"The soldiers go to school for asphalt and dirt but it's not until we come to train like this do we really learn how to perform the job," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Marshall.

"The project was a success in that the Soldiers received solid training and the garrison received a finished product," said Jeff Darrow, Fort A.P. Hill chief of engineering.

Garrison leaders say they hope to forge a close relationship with the 411th, Darrow said. "This year is a seed project, which has worked well. We hope to continue this beneficial relationship year after year."



Army engineers saved Fort A.P. Hill more than \$1 million by working in-house on projects including repairs to an ammunition holding area.

"IF THE ARMY WANTED YOU TO HAVE A FAMILY IT WOULD HAVE ISSUED YOU ONE"

Changing attitudes, changing needs: By the Vietnam era, a significant number of Soldiers had Families. They faced typical problems—financial, medical and personal—and the stresses of wartime service. In 1965, the Army created a structured program to help commanders maintain readiness by delivering services promoting Family self-reliance, resiliency and stability during war and peace: Army Community Service.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL EMMA MARIE BAIRD

Lt. Col. Emma Marie Baird is considered the mother of ACS. During her 24-year military career, she served in the Women's Army Corps, worked in Army Emergency Relief during WWII, and became the first woman assigned to the U.S. Military Academy staff. Because of her experience in AER, she was selected to create the Army's official Family assistance program in the early 1960s. After her retirement in 1968, Baird remained active with ACS programs throughout the country – especially at Fort Bliss, Texas, where she regularly volunteered her time. She passed away in 1987.



75
GARRISON
ACS CENTERS
TODAY

Since 1979 ■ Exceptional Family Member Program Established as the Handicapped Dependents Program. Provides comprehensive and coordinated services to special needs Families

Danisha Mateo Santos is the mother of two boys with autism, ages 4 and 1. When her husband, Spc. Juan Mateo Santos moved to the Presidio of Monterey, California, EFMP and its System Navigators helped the Family find the services they needed from state and local programs and school systems. The EFMP also teaches parents and holds events like adaptive trick-or-treating for the Families. "Mrs. Moseley and her staff take pride in helping us with all our needs. Whether it's being an advocate or counselor, they are always there to help."



Since 1984 ■ Financial Readiness Program Offers training and counseling on saving, debt elimination, investing and goal setting



"She assisted us with several financial issues to include travel debts, student loans going into default, and a lot of other mistakes we made when we were young. We've reduced our debt by over \$16,000. My husband's credit scores have improved 126 points in one year going from 513 to 639 and are still rising. We now have over \$2,000 in an emergency savings fund and working on purchasing our first home."

*Spc. Justin and Barbara Boyd,
Fort Jackson, South Carolina*

“The stronger the family the stronger the Army, because strong families improve our combat readiness.”
- Gen. John Wickham, 30th Chief of Staff of the Army

- Army Emergency Relief
- Army Family Action Plan
- Army Family Team Building
- Army Volunteer Corps
- Employment Readiness
- Exceptional Family Member Program
- Family Advocacy
- Financial Readiness
- Information and Referral
- Master Resilience Training
- Mobilization and Deployment
- Relocation Readiness
- Soldier & Family Assistance Centers
- Survivor Outreach Services



8

**STAND-ALONE
SURVIVOR
OUTREACH
SERVICES
CENTERS**

4
**WAYS TO
CONNECT
WITH ACS
PROGRAMS**

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IN ITS 50TH YEAR,

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE

THROUGH PROGRAMS AND VOLUNTEERS WILL TOUCH

16 MILLION TIMES

SOLDIERS, FAMILY MEMBERS, SURVIVORS, CIVILIANS AND VETERANS MORE THAN

Since 2004 ■ Victim Advocacy Program

Provides non-clinical advocacy services and support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault

"When the day came that my husband crossed a line we could never come back from, the victim advocates at Fort Stewart, Georgia, became the only lifeline I could hold onto. Going to court with me, calling to make sure I was OK, and valiantly fighting for my rights made all the difference in me getting through it. When we got our letter approving us for Transitional Compensation, it saved our lives. My children and I now have an actual chance at regaining our lives. I had been certain everyone had completely forgotten we existed. Thank you so much for proving me wrong. Thank you so much for giving me my life back and my children a chance at happiness again."

Since 2008 ■ Soldier and Family Assistance Center

Supports Warriors in Transition and their Families in a consolidated facility



"We first heard about the SFAC when we went to the Warrior Transition Battalion on Fort Bragg. The SFAC set us up with childcare during my husband's medical appointments, and they also planned activities to make our Family feel special. We would still be lost in the dark if it wasn't for their help and assistance."

*Sgt. Christopher and Amy Robbins,
Fort Bragg, North Carolina*

4 SMARTPHONE APPS

- Money Matters
- Services Locator
- AFAP Active Issue Search
- Army Family Team Building

Since 1983 ■ Army Family Action Plan

695 AFAP ISSUES

WERE THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND ENACTMENT OF

128 PIECES OF LEGISLATION

186 ARMY & DOD POLICY CHANGES

210 IMPROVED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



125,588 VOLUNTEERS

GAVE 2.4 MILLION HOURS IN FISCAL '14

1,332

ACS STAFF WORLDWIDE

25

SOLDIER & FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTERS

"THE STRENGTH OF THE NATION IS THE ARMY. THE STRENGTH OF THE ARMY IS THE SOLDIER. THE STRENGTH OF THE SOLDIER IS THE FAMILY."

- Gen. Ray Odierno, 38th Chief of Staff of the Army

2015

UNIT/GARRISON



Unit briefings,
Army Family Life
Counselors, training,
SFACs

ONLINE



Army OneSource,
Virtual Family
Readiness Group,
Facebook, Twitter

HOME



New Parent Support
Program,
Respite Care,
Victim Advocates

LOCAL PARTNERS



Business groups,
local education
providers,
crisis agencies

\$151.3 MILLION

FAMILY PROGRAMS BUDGET IN FISCAL 2013

5

WEBSITES

armyfrg.org
myarmyonesource.com
acsstaff.org
goldstarpins.org
sos.army.mil

Port Royal: A most endangered town

By Olivia Mills, DPW-
Environmental

A veritable hub of prosperity and potential in its time, many ships dropped anchor at the thriving Rappahannock River charter town of Port Royal.

A year after its establishment in 1744, a guild was created to promote commerce and manage the booming England-America trade in tobacco, Virginia's most successful cash crop; thus founding one of America's earliest chambers of commerce.

The prominence of the seafaring town was such that in the late 18th century it was considered as a location for the nation's capital.

However, after time, the ships stopped coming. During the 19th century, railroads replaced rivers as the primary tidewater transportation and while other port cities flourished, Port Royal was bypassed.

Likewise, Highway 301, established in the 1920s as the main interstate route skipped Port Royal. Interstate 95, built in the 1950's, diverted even more traffic flow away from the area.

What started out as a slow fade of a once burgeoning town has turned to disintegration.

Over 35 18th - and early 19th-century structures, such as the 1854 Lyceum, one of the last of its kind in Virginia, are all contained within the historical district making it a rare Tidewater town retaining its historic appearance.

These remaining structures withstood Union gunboat fire during the 1862 Fredericksburg Campaign, hid John Wilkes Booth for an afternoon prior to his death at the Garret Farmhouse and have been mercilessly battered by weathering of time.

Navigating off the beaten path just north of the intersection of Route 17 and Highway 301 to Port Royal's eight main streets and 12 blocks today, you will find historical structures in dire need of repair scattered amongst late 19th and 20th century buildings.

In its efforts to bring awareness to the location's rich history and need for preservation support, Historic Port Royal organizes historical festivals and maintains four museums solely on a few private donation and volunteer efforts.

On May 18th, Louis Malon, director of preservation services for Preservation Virginia, an advocate organization for endangered historic properties, met with Historic Port Royal to announce the addition of Port Royal to its list of Vir-



The Brockenbrough-Peyton House where John Wilkes Booth, Lincoln's assassin, rested just prior to his final stop at the Garret Farmhouse, where he was shot and killed.

ginia's Most Endangered Historic Places.

The struggle lies in the lack of state funds and reliance on individual or community donors to maintain these structures for the future. Herbert Collins, Historic Port Royal's museum benefactor, acknowledged that it is the support of dedicated individuals that keeps this "mini-Williamsburg" alive.

Of the endangered sites in Virginia, half have been saved, chiefly through local efforts.

It is Historic Port Royal's hope that one day, there will be as many visiting enthusiasts visiting their fascinating marine town as there were ships coming into port long ago.

Bird from pg. 6

warblers to have 2 broods over the breeding season with a common clutch size between 3-7 eggs. At the same time, another breath of air above the bird's wishbone, in the furcular hollow, might reveal yellowish fat deposits through the bird's translucent skin. Once all the measurements are taken and the bird has been examined, it is released back to its environment.

The final piece of information gathered is the ratio of elements.

Tracking the migratory destinations of the birds will help scientists determine what we can do to preserve the prothonotary warbler habitat here, and across the equator.

The silencing forest: Deadly fungus threatens amphibians

By Olivia Mills, DPW-
Environmental

The peeping nighttime concert of crickets and frogs are a familiar sign that warmer weather is breaking through and the summer haze is here to stay.

However, this wilderness melody is being silenced across the country and around the world by an advancing microscopic killer, the chytridiomycosis (chytrid) fungus.

Decimating amphibian species since its discovery in the 1960's the spread of chytrid has put one third of the world's 6,260 amphibian species on the globally threatened or extinct list.

Chytrid originates from an aquatic fungal pathogen, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, and may be responsible for the most widespread disease-caused loss of biodiversity in recorded history.

It is the first disease documented to cause population loss of hundreds of species that were otherwise not threatened.

America alone is losing amphibians at rate of 3.7 percent per year, meaning half of our current species will be gone in 20 years.

When infected, chytrid attacks the protein, keratin, in an amphibian's skin and causes the skin to harden and slough off. Because amphibians rely on their skin for vital functions such as hydration, thermoregulation and respiration, the interference of this fungus causes nutrient deficiencies and eventually leads to starvation or cardiac arrest in infected individuals.

Present on every continent except Antarctica (where there are no

amphibians), the chytrid fungus is leaving nothing but dead frogs, toads and salamanders in its wake.

Hoping to help solve the mystery of how and why this pathogen is spreading, a University of Richmond biology team has been going out to the field and looking under the microscope.

Noticing that the western United States amphibian populations are suffering more than those on the east coast, the team's goals are to see if certain species are able to withstand chytrid infection and persist alongside the fungus.

In collaboration with researchers at Virginia Tech, they are also examining the relationship between chytrid and the amphibians' microbiomes (ecological community of microorganisms that share another organism's body space).

With the diverse ecosystems and habitats Fort A.P. Hill has to offer, the group is using several spots on base for their research.

In the water, 68 amphibian traps are positioned in three ponds on base to capture both the greater (*Siren lacertina*) and lesser siren (*Siren intermedia*). In appearance, sirens are similar to eels but have external gills and small weak forelimbs.

Both greater and lesser sirens have the ability to encapsulate themselves in moisture underground and survive for several months if a drought dries up their habitat.

Interestingly enough, lesser sirens are also known for a "yelping" sound they make when captured.

Because sirens can't really be baited for, the crew just has to hope

the set traps are near a siren's territory.

Once the team captures a specimen, a sterile swab is rubbed across their skin to collect a microbiome sample that is then put on ice and taken to the lab. In addition to several sirens, they've also caught a green frog, carpenter frog and a few baby musk turtles.

On land, a recently prescribed burn area and a non-burn area each house 20 pvc pipes attached to tree trunks ready for Cope's Gray Tree Frog (*Hyla chrysoscelis*) colonization.

Placed two meters above the ground and spaced approximately 10 meters apart from each other in a grid-like pattern, the pipes are fitted with a stopper at the bottom to collect rain water.

Because the pipes are open at the top and have a drainage hole to prevent the rainwater from filling the tube, the frogs are able to come and go at will. Eventually, the frogs will begin to inhabit the pipes.

Like the sirens, the frogs will be swabbed for microbiome fauna, as well as studied for re-population comparison between the burn and non-burn area.

Furthermore, the crew has been performing nighttime frog-call surveys to verify local species diversity as well as gathering data from road-cruising surveys documenting any reptiles or amphibians visible on the pavement or roadsides.

With over 350 amphibian species infected by chytrid, and no sign if it slowing down its rampage, scientists around the world, University

See Fungus pg. 12

Employee Spotlight — Anthony S. Harrison



Interview and photo by Michael Meisberger

Anthony S. Harrison recently joined the U.S. Army Garrison Fort A.P. Hill Department of Emergency Services.

Harrison spent eight years in the U.S. Navy. He was rated as a ships serviceman but three-years' temporary duty with the Master-At-Arms division piqued his interest in law enforcement. His first tour was on the USS Enterprise. He spent his last tour attached to Amphibious Construction Battalion 2 at Little Creek, Va.

You have probably seen him working as a gate guard. As a gate guard, he later applied for and got, a police officer position here on the Garrison.

What does your job entail?

"I am just learning the details. I was a Master at Arms in the U.S. Navy so I had some law enforcement ex-

perience, but I just got back from the nine-week U.S. Army civilian police academy at Fort Leonard Wood.

For now, I am working with other officers here trying to get my sea legs," Harrison said, laughing.

What are your goals here at A.P. Hill?

"I started as a security guard and when a police officer position opened, I talked to my wife about applying. She is active duty Navy so her input is important." He smiled. "I have a family, a wife and three sons. It is important to me to be stable within the government service system."

After a moment's reflection he continued, "Eventually, I would like to combine my degree work in computers with law enforcement. I believe the future of law enforcement involves using technology and I want to be a law enforcement computer information instructor."

What's your favorite football, baseball, hockey, soccer, etc. team?

"I am not into sports, but I will say that in memory of my father, I try to keep up with the Philadelphia 76ers. My favorite pastime is music, I play a lot of piano."

Did you ever envision working for the Army and with Soldiers?

"It was a logical progression for me. I grew up participating in all kinds of MWR events and after college it just made sense to continue forward with MWR as a career."

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of Richmond and Virginia Tech groups alike are doing what they can to keep up with this frightening eradicator.

Still not sure how the disease moves through the natural environment on its own, studies have linked the disease's spread to the interna-

tional pet trade, where an estimated 4 million amphibians are imported to the United States per year. Unfortunately, disease is an unwelcomed byproduct of poorly inspected animals that end up in our yards and fish-tanks.

Pollution and habitat destruction

are the other major anthropogenic factors. Considering there can be as many salamanders (by weight) as bird or mammals in our North American forests, the loss of amphibian populations would most certainly impact food chains and ecosystem equilibrium in ways we

Soldier earns Olympic berth in modern pentathlon at Pan American Games



Spc. Nathan Schrimsher of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program rides a horse named Taboo en route to earning a berth for the 2016 Olympic Games with a third-place finish in men's Modern Pentathlon at the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, July 19, 2015.

Story and photos by Tim Hipps, IMCOM PAO

TORONTO (July 19, 2015) -- Spc. Nathan Schrimsher earned an automatic berth into the 2016 Rio Olympic Games with a third-place finish in men's Modern Pentathlon on a stormy Sunday at the 2015 Pan American Games.

Schrimsher, 23, a Soldier in the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, or WCAP, from Roswell, New Mexico, took the bronze medal in the five-sports-in-one-day event with 1,421 points.

"I'm ecstatic," Schrimsher said. "Yes, sir, it's awesome."

WCAP Sgt. Dennis Bowsher, 32, a 2012 Olympian from Dallas, finished 10th with 1,348 points in the

event, which includes fencing, swimming, equestrian show jumping and combines cross-country running and laser pistol shooting - all in one day.

"I think my day was OK," Bowsher said. "I'm definitely feeling my age. The whole goal today was for one of us to get an Olympic quota spot, so mission accomplished. Half the team is now Army, so next is for either myself or Logan Storie to get it another spot basically off world-ranking points over the next year.

"All three of us definitely are going to push each other, that way we can get one more, along with Schrimsher, on the [U.S. Olympic] team."

Charles Fernandez of Guatemala won the gold with

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1,444 points, followed by silver medalist Ismael Hernandez Uscanga of Mexico with 1,439 points.

Fourth and fifth-place finishers Jose Figueroa (1,415) of Cuba and Emmanuel Zapata (1,413) of Argentina also punched tickets to Rio de Janeiro by virtue of by-name Olympic berths awarded to the top five.

The 800-meter cross-country running course consisted of rain-soaked turf atop loose sod, which offered little stability for the runners, who stopped four times to hit a target five times from 10 meters with laser pistols. The competitor, who amassed the most points in the first three events - fencing, swimming and horseback riding - started first, followed by the rest of the field that faced a one-second handicap for each pentathlon point by which they trailed the leader. Therefore, the first competitor to cross the finish line was the gold medalist, followed in

order by the remainder of the field.

"I was very, very happy about Nathan, especially because he had a lot of pressure from the best in the world, Esteban Bustos [of Chile, who finished sixth] and Jose Figueroa [who finished fourth] from Cuba, I was worried that they could pass him," said Janusz Peciak, head coach of the U.S. Modern Pentathlon squad. "But he really ran very smart.

"This running course was not designed for him because he is big and it was raining and soaked, very wet," Peciak said. "The Mexicans and the Chileans are very light on their feet so it was much easier for them to run. But he did a fantastic job, and he shot very well. His shooting was the key."

Schrimsher knew what was required to accomplish the mission.

"Running is probably where I struggle in the pentathlon, and the ground was wet," he said. "I was sinking to up over my ankles in a few spots. I knew I really had to fo-

cus on shooting, and I shot well. The shooting was what got it. Running, I just ran my race.."

The first thunderstorm came shortly before Bowsher was scheduled to enter the riding course aboard a horse named Donaghan.

"It just started pouring, so they pulled me off," Bowsher said. "Then I got to be the first one to experiment with that muddy field."

Bowsher experienced firsthand how the waiting can be the hardest part.

"You just don't know when you're going," he said. "You're warming up. You're getting your adrenaline up and getting ready to ride, then have to come down, but then you don't know when to bring it back up again because you don't know when you're going. But it was fun."

Bowsher outsprinted Canadian Josh Riker-Fox to the line for a top-10 finish.

"I could hear the crowd, and I thought: 'Oh, great, he must be right behind me.' Then I glanced, and sure enough, he was like two feet right behind me. I just put my head down and was able to hold him off - a small bit of satisfaction not hearing the roar as the Canadian passes me. I was able to quiet them a little bit."

Bowsher, a three-time Pan American Games competitor, who is scheduled next month to attend the Army's Advanced Leadership Course on Fort Lee, Virginia, is proud of Schrimsher's accomplishment.

"He's been in the Army for a couple of years and I've been showing him the ropes, both within the military and I think in pentathlon, as well," Bowsher said. "I'm glad I've been able to help and see him improve. It's just a wonderful thing for him."



Spc. Nathan Schrimsher of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program defeats Emmanuel Zapata of Argentina in a fencing bonus round bout en route to earning a berth for the 2016 Olympic Games with a third-place finish in men's Modern Pentathlon at the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, July 19, 2015.

Army strikes volleyball gold at DoD Warrior Games



Veteran Alexander Shaw spikes the game-winner to lift Team Army to a 25-20, 13-25, 15-8 victory over Team Marines in the semifinals of the 2015 Department of Defense sitting volleyball tournament on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., June 27, 2015.

Story and photos by Tim Hipps, IMCOM PAO

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. (Army News Service, June 28, 2015) -- Team Army's sitting volleyball squad came together like a "Family of one" to win the 2015 Department of Defense Warrior Games tournament.

Army rallied from a one-set deficit in the gold-medal match to defeat Team Air Force, 16-25, 25-20, 15-6, Sunday. The resilient group of Soldiers for life went 7-1 in the four-day tourney against Air Force, Navy, British Armed Forces, Special Operations Command and the host Marines, the lone squad to defeat Army.

"We set out with a goal to work one game at a time, one point at a time, and that came through for us in the

end," Team Army Coach Uros Davidovic said. "We had amazing effort, amazing physical and mental resiliency.

"These athletes competed in so many sports, and to put this kind of performance together on the very last day of competition says you've got something special."

After losing 25-16 to Air Force in the opener of the best-of-three championship match, Team Army rode the serve of co-captain Monica Southall to a 5-0 lead in the finale and never looked back.

"This atmosphere is electric," Southall said of the loud crowd at Barber Gym. "Sometimes the moment gets really big, and you have to say, 'Hey, calm down, relax, and play volleyball like you know how to play

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volleyball - how we've been doing all Warrior Games.' We finally calmed down, relaxed, and got the victory."

"This is the only way we know how to play: suffer through the first part and kick butt the last part," co-captain Randi Gavell said. "Every game we played, it's always come from behind. I don't know why we do it to ourselves. I don't know why we do it to our crowd. I don't know why we give ourselves heart attacks."

Dustin Barr served for three consecutive points, giving Team Army an 11-8 lead in the second game. From there, the Soldiers never trailed.

"I think losing that first game was good for us," said Barr, a veteran from Jamesville, North Caroli-

na. "It turned on a switch we didn't have turned on the first game. We kept it ignited and kept going to the end.

"We did our thing: communication, teamwork and having fun," Barr said. "Having fun is the main thing. If we're not having fun, we're not playing our game."

Although Team Army grounded Air Force in two games before losing a three-game match to the Marines, Thursday, the Soldiers were forced to regroup to secure the gold.

"This match was just as hard as the Marine match, and we were down," Southall said. "The first game of the Marine match, we actually won the first set and lost the second. This time, we were down. So I felt like we had to fight harder to come back to actually pull this match

out."

"We knew what we had to do," Davidovic said.

"We made some small adjustments. The team was confident, regardless of losing the first game. We came out there and just performed so well the second and third games. The mental aspect of this is very important because you have to be resilient, and these guys were strong as rocks throughout the whole thing."

Gavell served Team Army to a 4-0 lead in the equalizer, and said the Soldiers "knew" they would prevail in a rubber game.

"In that third game, we knew we had to come out strong because we didn't have a chance to come back," Gavell said. "At the very end of the first game, we started to get our momentum. The second game, we started to pick it up, and it was real close. As soon as we knew we were playing a third game, that was it for us -- we knew."

Southall was a member of Army's gold-medal-winning sitting volleyball squad at the 2012 Warrior Games. She went 3-for-3 at this year's 2015 Warrior Games, striking gold in sitting volleyball, shot put and discus, with personal-best marks of 11.93 meters in the shot and 33.69 meters in the discus.

"All of it means the most to me," said Southall,

a veteran from Suffolk, Virginia, who at one point could not walk or stand. "I'm going to have my 13th surgery on July 7 on my right knee, so for me it's been a long recovery process. Just to be able to come here and even be able to compete is a true testament in itself.

"Our team has come a really long way from never having met each other to going to travel camps, getting to know each other, to becoming eventually a big Family," said Gavell, a native of Grand Junction, Colorado, who lives in Oklahoma City. "To be able to celebrate something so huge the last day of the games with your Family is amazing. And to have our Family come and support us is over the moon."

Davidovic was elated by his team's nearly flawless performance.

"I could not be prouder of their resiliency and mental focus, especially on this last day of competition," he said. "They are an amazing group. We were just happy to be there for the ride and enjoy it."

"This is a great way to end the Warrior Games," Southall concluded.

(Editor's note: Team Army won the Chairman's Cup at the 2015 DOD Warriors Games, winning 162 medals to second-place Marine Corps' 105 medals.)



Veteran Dustin Barr battles at the net for Team Army, which defeated Team Air Force in the sitting volleyball gold-medal match at the 2015 Department of Defense Warrior Games on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.